RESOLUTIONS

and

DECISIONS

adopted by the General Assembly

during its

SIXTEENTH SPECIAL SESSION

12 - 14 December 1989

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL RECORDS: SIXTEENTH SPECIAL SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 5 (A/S-16/5)

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UNITED NATIONS

New York, 1991

NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

The resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly are identified as follows:

Regular sessions

Until the thirtieth regular session, the resolutions of the General Assembly were identified by an arabic numeral followed by a roman numeral in parentheses indicating the session (for example: resolution 3363 (XXX)). When several resolutions were adopted under the same number, each of them was identified by a capital letter placed between the two numerals (for example: resolution 3367 A (XXX), resolutions 3411 A and B (XXX), resolutions 3419 A to D (XXX)). The decisions were not numbered.

Since the thirty-first session, as part of the new system adopted for symbols of General Assembly documents, resolutions and decisions have been identified by an arabic numeral, indicating the session, followed by an oblique stroke and another arabic numeral (for example: resolution 31/1, decision 31/301). When several resolutions or decisions were adopted under the same number, each of them has been identified by a capital letter placed after the two numerals (for example: resolution 31/16 A, resolutions 31/6 A and B, decisions 31/406 A to E).

Special sessions

Until the seventh special session, the resolutions of the General Assembly were identified by an arabic numeral followed, in parentheses, by the letter "S" and a roman numeral indicating the session (for example: resolution 3362 (S-VII)). The decisions were not numbered.

Since the eighth special session, resolutions and decisions have been identified by the letter "S" and an arabic numeral indicating the session, followed by an oblique stroke and another arabic numeral (for example: resolution S-8/1, decision S-8/11).

Emergency special sessions

Until the fifth emergency special session, the resolutions of the General Assembly were identified by an arabic numeral followed, in parentheses, by the letters "ES" and a roman numeral indicating the session (for example: resolution 2252 (ES-V)). The decisions were not numbered.

Since the sixth emergency special session, resolutions and decisions have been identified by the letters "ES" and an arabic numeral indicating the session, followed by an oblique stroke and another arabic numeral (for example: resolution ES-6/1, decision ES-6/11).

In each of the series described above, the numbering follows the order of adoption.

* * *

In addition to the text of the resolutions and the decisions adopted by the General Assembly during its sixteenth special session, the present volume contains a check-list of resolutions and decisions (see annex).

ISSN 0252-7014

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I. AGENDA[1]

1. Opening of the session by the Chairman of the delegation of Nigeria.
2. Minute of silent prayer or meditation.
3. Credentials of representatives to the sixteenth special session of the General Assembly:
   (*a*) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;
   (*b*) Report of the Credentials Committee.
4. Election of the President of the General Assembly.
5. Organization of the session.
6. Adoption of the agenda.
7. *Apartheid* and its destructive consequences in southern Africa.

[1]See also sect. III.B, decision S-16/23.

II. RESOLUTION ADOPTED ON THE REPORT OF THE *AD HOC* COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE SIXTEENTH SPECIAL SESSION

S-16/1. Declaration on *Apartheid* and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa

The General Assembly

Adopts the Declaration on *Apartheid* and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa, annexed to the present resolution.

6th plenary meeting
14 December 1989

ANNEX

Declaration on *Apartheid* and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa

We, the States Members of the United Nations,

Assembled at the sixteenth special session of the General Assembly, a special session on *apartheid* and its destructive consequences in southern Africa, guided by the fundamental and universal principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[2] in the context of our efforts to establish peace throughout the world by ending all conflicts through negotiations, and desirous of making serious efforts to bring an end to the unacceptable situation prevailing in southern Africa, which is a result of the policies and practices of *apartheid*, through negotiations based on the principle of justice and peace for all:

Reaffirming our conviction, which history confirms, that where colonial and racial domination or *apartheid* exist, there can be neither peace nor justice,

Reiterating, accordingly, that while the *apartheid* system in South Africa persists, the peoples of Africa as a whole cannot achieve the fundamental objectives of justice, human dignity and peace which are both crucial in themselves and fundamental to the stability and development of the continent,

Recognizing that, with regard to southern Africa, the entire world is vitally interested that the processes in which that region is involved, leading to the genuine national independence of Namibia and peace in Angola and Mozambique, should succeed in the shortest possible time, and equally recognizing that the world is deeply concerned that destabilization by South Africa of the countries of the region, whether through direct aggression, sponsorship of surrogates, economic subversion or other means, is unacceptable in all its forms and must not occur,

Also recognizing the reality that permanent peace and stability in southern Africa can only be achieved when the system of *apartheid* in South Africa has been eradicated and South Africa has been transformed into a united, democratic and non-racial country, and therefore reiterating that all the necessary measures should be adopted now to bring a speedy end to the *apartheid* system in the interest of all the people of southern Africa, the continent and the world at large,

Believing that, as a result of the legitimate struggle of the South African people for the elimination of *apartheid*, and of international pressure against that system, as well as global efforts to resolve regional conflicts, possibilities exist for further movement towards the resolution of the problems facing the people of South Africa,

Reaffirming the right of all peoples, including the people of South Africa, to determine their own destiny and to work out for themselves the institutions and the system of government under which they will, by general consent, live and work together to build a harmonious society, and remaining committed to doing everything possible and necessary to assist the people of South Africa, in such ways as they may, through their genuine representatives, determine to achieve this objective,

Making these commitments because we believe that all people are equal and have equal rights to human dignity and respect, regardless of colour, race, sex or creed, that all men and women have the right and duty to participate in their own government, as equal members of society, and that no individual or group of individuals has any right to govern others without their democratic consent, and reiterating that the *apartheid* system violates all these fundamental and universal principles,

Affirming that *apartheid*, characterized as a crime against the conscience and dignity of mankind, is responsible for the death of countless numbers of people in South Africa, has sought to dehumanize entire peoples and has imposed a brutal war on the region of southern Africa, which has resulted in untold loss of life, destruction of property and massive displacement of innocent men, women and children and which is a scourge and affront to humanity that must be fought and eradicated in its totality,

Therefore we support and continue to support all those in South Africa who pursue this noble objective. We believe this to be our duty, carried out in the interest of all humanity,

While extending this support to those who strive for a non-racial and democratic society in South Africa, a point on which no compromise is possible, we have repeatedly expressed our objective of a solution arrived at by peaceful means; we note that the people of South Africa, and their liberation movements who felt compelled to take up arms, have also upheld their preference for this position for many decades and continue to do so,

Welcoming the Declaration of the *Ad Hoc* Committee of the Organization of African Unity on Southern Africa on the question of South Africa, adopted at Harare on 21 August 1989,[3] and subsequently endorsed by the Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries at their Ninth Conference, held at Belgrade from 4 to 7 September 1989,[4] as a reaffirmation of readiness to resolve the problems of South Africa through negotiations. The Declaration is consistent with the positions contained in the Lusaka Manifesto[5] of two decades ago, in particular regarding the preference of the African people for peaceful change, and takes into account the changes that have taken place in southern Africa since then. The Declaration constitutes a new challenge to the Pretoria régime to join in the noble efforts to end the *apartheid* system, an objective to which the United Nations has always been committed,

Noting with appreciation that the Commonwealth Heads of Government, at their meeting held at Kuala Lumpur from 18 to 24 October 1989, noted with satisfaction the strong preference for the path of negotiated and peaceful settlement inherent in the Declaration adopted at Harare on 21 August 1989, and considered what further steps they might take to advance the prospects for negotiations,[6]

Also noting with appreciation that the Third Francophone Conference of Heads of State and Government, held at Dakar from 24 to 26 May 1989, likewise called for negotiations between Pretoria and representatives of the majority of the people with a view to the establishment of a democratic and egalitarian system in South Africa,

[2] Resolution 217 A (III).

[3] A/44/697, annex.

[4] See A/44/551-S/20870, annex.

[5] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fourth Session, Annexes*, agenda item 106, document A/7754.

[6] See A/44/672-S/20914.

Consequently, we shall continue to do everything in our power to increase support for the legitimate struggle of the South African people, including maintaining international pressure against the system of *apartheid* until that system is ended and South Africa is transformed into a united, democratic and non-racial country, with justice and security for all its citizens,

In keeping with this solemn resolve, and responding directly to the wishes of the majority of the people of South Africa, we publicly pledge ourselves to the positions contained hereunder, convinced that their implementation will lead to a speedy end of the *apartheid* system and herald the dawn of a new era of peace for all the peoples of Africa, in a continent finally free from racism, white minority rule and colonial domination,

Declare as follows:

1. A conjuncture of circumstances exists, which, if there is a demonstrable readiness on the part of the South African régime to engage in negotiations genuinely and seriously, given the repeated expression of the majority of the people of South Africa of their long-standing preference to arrive at a political settlement, could create the possibility to end *apartheid* through negotiations.

2. We would therefore encourage the people of South Africa, as part of their legitimate struggle, to join together to negotiate an end to the *apartheid* system and agree on all the measures that are necessary to transform their country into a non-racial democracy. We support the position held by the majority of the people of South Africa that these objectives, and not the amendment or reform of the *apartheid* system, should be the goals of the negotiations.

3. We are at one with the people of South Africa that the outcome of such a process should be a new constitutional order determined by them and based on the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We therefore hold the following fundamental principles to be of importance:

(*a*) South Africa shall become a united, non-racial and democratic State;

(*b*) All its people shall enjoy common and equal citizenship and nationality, regardless of race, colour, sex or creed;

(*c*) All its people shall have the right to participate in the government and administration of the country on the basis of universal, equal suffrage, under a non-racial voters' roll, and by secret ballot, in a united and non-fragmented South Africa;

(*d*) All shall have the right to form and join any political party of their choice, provided that this is not in furtherance of racism;

(*e*) All shall enjoy universally recognized human rights, freedoms and civil liberties, protected under an entrenched bill of rights;

(*f*) South Africa shall have a legal system that will guarantee equality of all before the law;

(*g*) South Africa shall have an independent and non-racial judiciary;

(*h*) There shall be created an economic order that will promote and advance the well-being of all South Africans;

(*i*) A democratic South Africa shall respect the rights, sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries and pursue a policy of peace, friendship and mutually beneficial co-operation with all peoples.

4. We believe that acceptance of these fundamental principles could constitute the basis for an internationally acceptable solution that will enable South Africa to take its rightful place as an equal partner among the world community of nations.

A. Climate for negotiations

5. We believe that it is essential that the necessary climate be created for negotiations. There is an urgent need to respond positively to this universally acclaimed demand and thus create this climate.

6. Accordingly, the present South African régime should, at the least:

(*a*) Release all political prisoners and detainees unconditionally and refrain from imposing any restrictions on them;

(*b*) Lift all bans and restrictions on all proscribed and restricted organizations and persons;

(*c*) Remove all troops from the townships;

(*d*) End the state of emergency and repeal all legislation, such as the Internal Security Act, designed to circumscribe political activity;

(*e*) Cease all political trials and political executions.

7. These measures would help create the necessary climate in which free political discussion can take place — an essential condition to ensure that the people themselves participate in the process of remaking their country.

B. Guidelines to the process of negotiations

8. We are of the view that the parties concerned should, in the context of the necessary climate, negotiate the future of their country and its people in good faith and in an atmosphere which, by mutual agreement between the liberation movements and the South African régime, would be free of violence. The process could commence along the following guidelines:

(*a*) Agreement on the mechanism for the drawing up of a new constitution, based on, among others, the principles enunciated above, and the basis for its adoption;

(*b*) Agreement on the role to be played by the international community in ensuring a successful transition to a democratic order;

(*c*) Agreed transitional arrangements and modalities for the process of the drawing up and adoption of a new constitution, and for the transition to a democratic order, including the holding of elections.

C. Programme of action

9. In pursuance of the objectives stated in this Declaration, we hereby decide:

(*a*) To remain seized of the issue of a political resolution of the South African question;

(*b*) To step up all-round support for the opponents of *apartheid* and to campaign internationally in pursuance of this objective;

(*c*) To use concerted and effective measures, including the full observance by all countries of the mandatory arms embargo, aimed at applying pressure to ensure a speedy end to *apartheid*;

(*d*) To ensure that the international community does not relax existing measures aimed at encouraging the South African régime to eradicate *apartheid* until there is clear evidence of profound and irreversible changes, bearing in mind the objectives of this Declaration;

(*e*) To render all possible assistance to the front-line and neighbouring States to enable them: to rebuild their economies, which have been adversely affected by South Africa's acts of aggression and destabilization; to withstand any further such acts; and to continue to support the peoples of Namibia and South Africa;

(*f*) To extend such assistance to the Governments of Angola and Mozambique as they may request in order to secure peace for their peoples, and to encourage and support peace initiatives undertaken by the Governments of Angola and Mozambique aimed at bringing about peace and normalization of life in their countries;

(*g*) The new South Africa shall, upon adoption of the new constitution, participate fully in relevant organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations.

10. We request the Secretary-General to transmit copies of the present Declaration to the South African Government and the representatives of the oppressed people of South Africa and also request the Secretary-General to prepare a report and submit it to the General Assembly by 1 July 1990 on the progress made in the implementation of the present Declaration.

III. DECISIONS

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Decision No.	*Title*	*Item*	*Date of adoption*	*Page*
	A. ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS			
S-16/11	Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee (A/S-16/PV.1) . . .	3 (*a*)	12 December 1989	5
S-16/12	Election of the President of the General Assembly (A/S-16/PV.1)	4	12 December 1989	5
S-16/13	Election of the Chairmen of the Main Committees (A/S-16/PV.1)	5	12 December 1989	5
S-16/14	Election of the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly (A/S-16/PV.1)	5	12 December 1989	6
S-16/15	Election of the officers of the *Ad Hoc* Committee of the Whole of the Sixteenth Special Session (A/S-16/PV.1)	5	12 December 1989	6
	B. OTHER DECISIONS			
S-16/21	Credentials of representatives to the sixteenth special session of the General Assembly (A/S-16/PV.1)	3	12 December 1989	7
S-16/22	Organization of the session (A/S-16/PV.1)	5	12 December 1989	7
S-16/23	Adoption of the agenda (A/S-16/PV.1)	6	12 December 1989	7
S-16/24	Policies of *apartheid* of the Government of South Africa (A/S-16/PV.6)	7	14 December 1989	7

A. ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

S-16/11. Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee

At its 1st plenary meeting, on 12 December 1989, the General Assembly decided that the Credentials Committee for the sixteenth special session, appointed in accordance with rule 28 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly, would have the same composition as that for the forty-fourth session.

As a result, the Committee was composed of the following Member States: ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA, AUSTRALIA, CHINA, COLOMBIA, MALAWI, PHILIPPINES, UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA and ZAIRE.

S-16/12. Election of the President of the General Assembly[7]

At its 1st plenary meeting, on 12 December 1989, the General Assembly decided that Mr. Joseph Nanven GARBA (Nigeria), President of the Assembly at its forty-fourth session, would serve in the same capacity at the sixteenth special session.

S-16/13. Election of the Chairmen of the Main Committees[7]

At its 1st plenary meeting, on 12 December 1989, the General Assembly decided that the Chairmen of the Main Committees of the forty-fourth session would serve in the same capacity at the sixteenth special session, on the understanding that the Chairmen of the First Committee and the Sixth Committee would be replaced by another member of the same delegation.

The following persons were therefore elected Chairmen of the Main Committees:

First Committee: Mr. Andrés AGUILAR (Venezuela),

Special Political Committee: Mr. Guennadi Iossifovich OUDOVENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic),

Second Committee: Mr. Ahmed GHEZAL (Tunisia),

[7] In accordance with rule 38 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the General Committee consists of the President of the Assembly, the twenty-one Vice-Presidents and the Chairmen of the seven Main Committees. See also decision S-16/22, subpara. (*a*).

Fourth Committee: Mr. Robert F. VAN LIEROP (Vanuatu),

Fifth Committee: Mr. Ahmad Fathi AL-MASRI (Syrian Arab Republic),

Sixth Committee: Mr. Thomas HAJNOCZI (Austria).

S-16/14. Election of the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly[7]

At its 1st plenary meeting, on 12 December 1989, the General Assembly decided that the Vice-Presidents of the forty-fourth session would serve in the same capacity at the sixteenth special session.

The representatives of the following twenty-one Member States were therefore elected Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly: ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA, BOLIVIA, BRUNEI DARUSSALAM, CHINA, CONGO, COSTA RICA, FRANCE, GAMBIA, IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF), IRAQ, KUWAIT, LUXEMBOURG, MOROCCO, NORWAY, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, POLAND, SUDAN, UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS, UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA and ZIMBABWE.

S-16/15. Election of the officers of the *Ad Hoc* Committee of the Whole of the Sixteenth Special Session[8]

At its 1st plenary meeting, on 12 December 1989, the General Assembly elected the Chairman of the *Ad Hoc* Committee of the Whole of the Sixteenth Special Session.

At its 1st meeting, on 12 December 1989, the *Ad Hoc* Committee of the Whole elected its other officers.

* * *

The following were therefore elected officers of the *Ad Hoc* Committee of the Whole:

Chairman:

Dame Ann HERCUS (New Zealand).

Vice-Chairmen:

Mr. Moumouni Adamou DJERMAKOYE (Niger),
Dame Ruth Nita BARROW (Barbados),
Mr. Robert F. VAN LIEROP (Vanuatu).

Rapporteur:

Mr. Gerhard RICHTER (German Democratic Republic).

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[8] See also decision S-16/22, subpara. (*a*).

B. OTHER DECISIONS

S-16/21. Credentials of representatives to the sixteenth special session of the General Assembly

At its 1st plenary meeting, on 12 December 1989, the General Assembly took note of the fact that the two reports of the Credentials Committee[9] dealing with the credentials of the representatives to the sixteenth special session had already been approved by the Assembly in its resolutions 44/5 A of 17 October and 44/5 B of 11 December 1989.

S-16/22. Organization of the session

At its 1st plenary meeting, on 12 December 1989, the General Assembly decided:

(*a*) To establish an *ad hoc* committee and designate it the *Ad Hoc* Committee of the Whole of the Sixteenth Special Session;[10]

(*b*) That the national liberation movements of South Africa recognized by the Organization of African Unity should be permitted to participate in the discussion in plenary meeting;

(*c*) That non-governmental organizations and individuals having a special interest in the question of *apartheid* and its destructive consequences in southern Africa should be heard in the *Ad Hoc* Committee of the Whole.

S-16/23. Adoption of the agenda

At its 1st plenary meeting, on 12 December 1989, the General Assembly adopted the agenda for its sixteenth special session.[11]

S-16/24. Policies of *apartheid* of the Government of South Africa

At its 6th plenary meeting, on 14 December 1989, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the *Ad Hoc* Committee of the Whole of the Sixteenth Special Session, decided that item 28 of the agenda of its forty-fourth session should be reopened in order for the Assembly to resume its session to consider the report of the Secretary-General[12] and to consider such action as might be required.

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[9] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Annexes,* agenda item 3, documents A/44/639 and Add.1.

[10] See also decision S-16/15.

[11] A/S-16/2; see sect. I.

[12] See resolution S-16/1, para. 10.

ANNEX

CHECK-LIST OF RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS

This check-list includes the resolution and the decisions adopted by the General Assembly during its sixteenth special session. The resolution and the decisions were adopted without a vote.

RESOLUTION

Resolution No.	*Title*	*Item*	*Plenary meeting*	*Date of adoption*	*Page*
S-16/1	Declaration on *Apartheid* and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa	7	6th	14 December 1989	3

DECISIONS

Decision No.	*Title*	*Item*	*Plenary meeting*	*Date of adoption*	*Page*
	A. Elections and appointments				
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S-16/12	Election of the President of the General Assembly	4	1st	12 December 1989	5
S-16/13	Election of the Chairmen of the Main Committees	5	1st	12 December 1989	5
S-16/14	Election of the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly	5	1st	12 December 1989	6
S-16/15	Election of the officers of the *Ad Hoc* Committee of the Whole of the Sixteenth Special Session	5	1st	12 December 1989	6
	B. Other decisions				
S-16/21	Credentials of representatives to the sixteenth special session of the General Assembly	3	1st	12 December 1989	7
S-16/22	Organization of the session	5	1st	12 December 1989	7
S-16/23	Adoption of the agenda	6	1st	12 December 1989	7
S-16/24	Policies of *apartheid* of the Government of South Africa	7	6th	14 December 1989	7

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Litho in United Nations, New York 00300 90-41199—January 1991—4,550

ISSN 0252-7014